

ANDREW CARNEGIE

Andrew Carnegie died at his summer home at Lennox, Massachusetts on the 11th of last August, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. A great man has gone.

His life may be divided into two parts. The first was the period in which he was accumulating money, and the other while he was giving it away. His greatest success in business was attained while he was a manufacturer, but he was much more than a manufacturer. He was a pioneer, he was ever on the frontier searching for new lands to exploit. He

"Dipt into the future far as human eye could see."

To him the past was but the guidepost to the future. His judgment was unerring and his disposition daring, and whether it was to drill for petroleum, introduce sleeping cars on the railroads, or supersede wooden bridges with those constructed of iron, he displayed the same superb discernment. Iron was the king of industry and he engaged in its manufacture. He recognized the immense importance of the inventions of Bessemer and Siemens in steel and established mills to employ their processes. In a few years he was at the head of the industry in the United States. His conduct as a manufacturer was sometimes criticised, but it was because his methods were misunderstood, and those who were loudest in their denunciation have long since realized their error and admitted that they were unjust in their condemnation.

He entered upon the second phase of his existence shortly after the half century milestone had been passed, and began to put into practice theories which had been developing in his mind from the time that his increasing prosperity gave him leisure for contemplation. In his "The Gospel of Wealth," he proclaimed the doctrine that riches are "a sacred trust to be administered for the general good;" that wealth comes from and should return to the community.

His earliest practical demonstration of this precept was to supply libraries to the public, and in the years that have since passed not less than three thousand public library buildings were erected at his expense. He branched out into other lines. He assisted in providing organs for eight thousand churches. He founded the Carnegie Institute of Pittsburgh, with its library, music hall, art galleries,

museum and institute of technology. The Carnegie Institution of Washington was established "to encourage investigation, research and discovery". Then there were the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, whose primary object is to provide pensions for retiring college professors and their widows. These institutions he endowed with sums aggregating almost two hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars. His total gifts exceeded in amount those ever given by any other person in the world.

He was the product of Pittsburgh. It was here that real life opened to him; it was in this city that his mind developed and matured, here that his early plans were made and his great financial triumphs achieved. In Allegheny, now a part of Pittsburgh, he passed his boyhood and it was there that his first library was established. The ceremonies at the completion of the building on the evening of February 20, 1890, will ever be an event in the history of this city. The president of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, was there, as was James A. Beaver, the governor of the state, and Andrew Carnegie. The culture and refinement, the wealth and beauty of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania, were in attendance. Persons who were present on that memorable occasion still recall Andrew Carnegie's charming address. He was the one to be grateful for being permitted to make the gift, he said; and he dwelt on the fact that Allegheny was his earliest home in the United States. He referred to the tender associations of his boyhood which clustered around the vicinity, and declared that no other spot on earth could fill the place which the city held in his heart.

Andrew Carnegie is dead, but his memory will continue to live. Every thoughtful Pittsburgher is proud to remember that he once dwelt here. The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania esteems it a high honor to have had him on its membership rolls for more than a quarter of a century.